

The following National Register of Historic Places form was prepared for inventory documentation purposes only; the property has not been nominated to the National Register.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Downsville Survey District

other names/site number MIHP #WA-II-273

**2. Location**

street & number Intersection of Rt. 632/Downsville Pike, Rt. 63/Spielman Rd., and Natural Well Rd. ☐ not for publication

city or town Williamsport ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Washington code 043 zip code 21795

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency or bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Downsville Survey District  
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Washington County, Maryland  
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## 5. Classification

## Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
36	6	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
36	6	Total

## Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
In the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

## Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

EDUCATION/school

RELIGION/religious facility

## Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

VACANT/not in use

SOCIAL/meeting hall

RELIGION/religious facility

## 7. Description

## Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

OTHER/Gothic Revival-influenced

OTHER/institutional

## Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick; wood

Vinyl

roof Asphalt; metal

other

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8 Statement of Significance

## Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

## Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☒ designed a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

## Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Transportation

Military

## Period of Significance

1852-1958

## Significant Dates

July 1863

## Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

## Cultural Affiliation

N/A

## Architect/Builder

N/A



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Downsville Survey District  
Name of PropertyWashington County, Maryland  
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(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Paula S. Reed, Ph.D., architectural historian; Paige Phifer, field technician; Edie Wallace, historian

organization Paula S. Reed &amp; Assoc., Inc.

date June 2008

street &amp; number 1 W. Franklin St., Suite 300

telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown

state Maryland

zip code 21740

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple property owners

street &amp; number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

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Summary Description

The village of Downsville is situated on level farmland at the slightly skewed intersection of MD Rt. 632, also called the Downsville Pike and Dam #4 Road (running northeast to southwest), and MD Rt. 63, also called Spielman Road (running north to south). Sections of locally characteristic stone wall along Dam #4 Road and the abandoned part of old Natural Well Road, adjoining the property at 16523 Spielman Rd., contribute to the historic appearance of the village. The historic buildings in the village are situated close to the road on regularly laid-out town lots. Although the town once had a thriving commercial district, the Downsville General Store located at 8642 Downsville Pike is now the sole remaining business in the village. The Downsville Survey District includes 36 contributing buildings and 6 noncontributing buildings. Outbuildings were noted but not counted as contributing or noncontributing.

Physical Description

The 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century dwellings in Downsville have a cohesive appearance, as they are all two-story buildings, nearly all of brick or frame construction. Two exceptions are the house at 16523 Spielman Rd., where the brickwork may cover a log structure, and the stone house at 8680 Downsville Pike, which seems to predate the main 1850s settlement of the village. Nearly all the homes are three bays wide, with ell sections extending to the rear. The houses at 8420 Dam #4 Rd. and 8609 Downsville Pike are both five bays wide.

Several homes were built in the 1920s and 1930s, such as the Foursquare-style dwelling at 8642 Downsville Pike and the bungalow at 8648 Downsville Pike. The concrete block garage and store buildings at 16497 & 16499 Spielman Rd. were also built at this time. A few brick ranchers were interspersed throughout the village in the 1950s, as at 8440 and 8505 Dam #4 Road, and 8652 and 8653 Downsville Pike.

The Downsville Church of the Brethren building at 8439 Dam #4 Rd. (MIHP #WA-II-274) is now occupied as a dwelling; the current church building is now located further south. Only two historic cultural institutions remain in Downsville. These are the 1952 Downsville Christian Church (8641 Downsville Pike) and the Downsville Ruritan Club (8629 Downsville Pike), built circa 1930 as the Downsville School. These two structures display an unusual variant of Flemish bond masonry, utilizing five rows of all stretchers to one row of alternating stretchers and headers. Another example of distinctive brickwork from this era is found on the Foursquare house located at 8642 Downsville Pike. Here, each row consists of two stretchers alternating with one dark-colored header brick. The resulting vertical lines of headers are striking.

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Although many of Downsville's early homes have been altered with modern materials such as aluminum or vinyl siding and modern windows, most retain their historic form and proportions, along with many architectural details. Most buildings have retained their front porches, as well as their original kitchens or ells extending to the rear. Porches incorporate turned (8508, 8511 Dam #4 Rd.) or chamfered posts, tapered square posts set on brick piers, (8507 Dam #4 Rd, 8613 Downsville Pike) or tapered round columns (8514 Dam #4 Rd., 8630 Downsville Pike). Several examples feature decorative brackets or scroll cut balustrades, as at 8502 Dam #4 Rd and 61523 Spielman Rd.

Downsville's 19<sup>th</sup> century brick homes were typically built in 6:1 common bond. A locally prominent detail is the brick dentil course located under the cornice, as seen at 8439, 8511, and 8514 Dam #4 Rd., and 8613 Downsville Pike. Wooden lintels or brick jack arches form the windowheads. These brick homes were set on stone foundations.

The frame buildings in town have been covered with modern siding, though remnants of their original German siding can be seen at 8609 Downsville Pike and 16515 Spielman Rd.

Nearly every historic site in town retains several outbuildings. Summer kitchens are found at 8420, 8501, and 8502 Dam #4 Rd., and 8664 Downsville Pike. Small timber frame barns or stables are located at 8622, 8630, and 8680 Downsville Pike. The house at 16523 Spielman Rd. has a fine collection of outbuildings, including a log summer kitchen, the only clearly identified log structure in town.

Downsville maintains its overall historic character and appearance. The six noncontributing modern buildings are set unobtrusively throughout the town and do not detract from the historic district.

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Statement of Significance

The village of Downsville is significant locally and potentially eligible under National Register Criterion A as an example of 19<sup>th</sup> century rural community development in Washington County, Maryland. Downsville developed beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century at a crossing of two old roads. Both roads led to important towns in Washington County, one to the county seat of Hagerstown and the other to Williamsport on the Potomac River. After 1835 Williamsport became a major C&O Canal depot and the south end of the old road to Hagerstown terminated at the C&O Canal Dam #4. As traffic along the roads increased the small village developed around the Charles Downs' store, eventually including two churches, a school, and a growing number of shops and residences. The village remained relatively unchanged into the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the exception of the addition of automobile related commercial buildings and some modern domestic infill.

Historic Context

The settlement of southern Washington County in the latter 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries exhibited a mixture of wealthy farmers, yeoman farmers, craftsmen, and laborers. While agriculture was the primary focus of the region, industry centered on the many flour and grist mills along the Antietam and Conococheague Creeks, as well as several iron furnaces. The growing prosperity was the result of agricultural intensification as frontier conditions lessened, and farming and support networks matured. Most prominent in the developing economy during the time period was the dominance of wheat and small grains and the shift away from less profitable tobacco. While southern Maryland remained committed to tobacco cultivation, the central and western counties increasingly turned to wheat production. Wheat was a more saleable product than tobacco and was not restricted by production legislation as tobacco had been. The increase of wheat production promoted growth of the market and port cities of Baltimore, Frederick and Hagerstown, as well as towns in south central Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Baltimore in particular became important to the processing and shipping of grain and began to siphon trade from the grain producing areas of Pennsylvania, setting up a trade rivalry with Philadelphia.

The growth of the greater region led to its being served by important transportation routes, beginning in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with the National Road and a good system of turnpikes, and followed in the 1830s by the C&O Canal and the B&O Railroad. These amenities and the overall prosperity of the region were certainly factors influencing Confederate General Robert E. Lee's decision to enter Maryland and occupy the portion of it consisting of the Cumberland Valley in September of 1862. Among Lee's several goals was a desire to take pressure away from Virginia in supplying the needs of the Army. He wanted to draw the Union Army away from their base of supplies and he hoped to gain support for the Confederate cause from Great Britain. He also seemed to believe that there were

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enough Confederate supporters in central Maryland to yield a new source of fighting men. Finally, he hoped that by entering the North, citizens would pressure congress for a negotiated end to the hostilities. What war weary and hungry Confederate soldiers saw as they moved through the area was a collection of rich, lush farms offering seemingly boundless food and supplies. They did not, however, have an opportunity to linger and enjoy the fruits of the land, unless they remained among the many wounded who recuperated in local field hospitals for weeks after the Battle of Antietam.

Through the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the railroads spread to prime farming regions to the west, attracting many of the descendants of the industrious German farmers who had developed the farms of central Maryland. Soon these same railroads were bringing grain from the west to the eastern markets and lowering grain prices. The farms of Washington County by 1880, still facing debts incurred from losses during the war, as well as lower land values, were unable to compete with the new mid-western bread basket. The eventual demise of the local milling economy by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the C&O Canal in 1924, would leave southern Washington County a quiet shadow of the bustling pre-war era.<sup>1</sup>

### Resource History

Charles Downs established his village of Downsville about the year 1852.<sup>2</sup> The village lies near the center of what was once the Conococheague Manor, an approximately 11,000 acre reserve held by the colonial proprietor of Maryland, Lord Baltimore, until 1767. Samuel Ringgold purchased large segments of the former "manor" lands, and his and other later conveyances through the first third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century established many of the farms owned by families prominent in the history of the Downsville area; in particular the Downs (Downes) and Long families.

Charles [G.] Downs (Downes) lived in the area as early as 1820, then known as Marsh Hundred, when he was appointed Constable of the Marsh Hundred (WC DB EE, p.543). In 1836 Downs purchased his first small tract of 30 acres of "Conococheague Manor" (WC DB SS, p.281). Isaac Long had already purchased several nearby large tracts along the Sharpsburg to Williamsport Road (today State Rt. 63 or Spielman Road) and the Hagerstown Road or Dam #4 Road (also Downsville Pike or State Rt. 632). Dam #4 Road continued south to the C&O Canal #4 dam on the Potomac River, constructed ca.1834. In 1846, Charles G. Downes [sic] purchased a 57-acre lot, part of "Conococheague Manor" located at the north quadrant of the intersection of these two main roads (WC DB IN2, p.153). It was around this intersection that the village of Downsville grew. (see attached 1859 map for locations of Downs and Long tracts)

Although the village was named for Charles Downs, it does not appear that Downs actively subdivided his own land to develop the small community. Anthony Lampkin (Lamkin), who is said to have built



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the first house in Downsville, purchased a 6-acre parcel in the south corner of the Downsville crossroads in 1854 from Daniel Reichard (WC DB IN8, p. 489). Lampkin then sold his land in two smaller lots in 1855. In 1854 Charles Downs built a store which remained in the Downs family into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The store was located on his 57-acre parcel on the north corner of the crossroads. His farm adjoined to the north and his 30-acre tract to the west across the Sharpsburg and Williamsport Road (Spielman Road). Downs did sell one ½-acre lot in 1855 to Hiram Rager, described as being on "the road leading from Sharpsburgh to Williamsport" (Spielman Road) and adjoining "the storehouse lot" (WC DB IN10, p.488). The following year (1856), Downs' son Christopher purchased the Rager lot back for \$350 (WC DB IN12, p. 213). Then in 1857, Downs' sons Christopher and Lewis (listed as Luther on the deed) purchased a one-acre lot from Stephen Butterbaugh (Puterbaugh). It was described as being on "the Manor or Hagerstown road" (Downsville Pike) and the "road from Williamsport to Bakersville" (Spielman Road). Christopher Downs bought the "lot in Downsville" from his brother Lewis for \$225 in 1858 (WC DB IN13, p. 141).

Charles G. Downes [sic] died in 1858 without leaving a will (WC Estate Record Index). His sons Christopher and L. (Lewis) O. Downs served as the administrators of his estate. In 1860, Christopher and Lewis Downs were listed on the census as merchants, their younger brother Charles was listed as a clerk. Charles G. Downs (Jr.) married Elizabeth Long about 1861. T.J.C. Williams wrote that Charles G. Downs (Jr.) kept the General Store in Downsville formerly kept by his brothers and served as the Post Master.<sup>3</sup> In addition to residences and businesses, Downsville had two churches, the Brethren Church on the south side of the village, founded in 1859 [WA-II-274, 8439 Dam #4 Rd.] and the Christian Church founded in 1868 [8641 Downsville Pike – datestone 1869 but with large 1952 addition]. The 1859 Thomas Taggart Map of Washington County (see attached copy) recorded the extent of development in Downsville within just a few years of its establishment, likely owing to its prime location at the intersection of two roads both leading to the C&O Canal.

The Downsville area was a locus of activity several times during the Civil War. Downsville was first occupied in June of 1861 by troops under command of Gen. Robert Patterson as part of his Potomac defensive line.<sup>4</sup> After the Battle of Antietam in 1862 Downsville and its environs was the site of month-long encampments. During the Maryland Campaign of 1862 there were two signal officers there, Lts. Denike & Clark.<sup>5</sup> General Darius Couch and his Division were ordered to Downsville in September 23-30, 1862. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Brigade, Army of the Potomac, W. W. Averell commanding, was there in October 4, 1862 after chasing Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart on his Cavalry raid of Chambersburg.<sup>6</sup> Among the units camped near Downsville were the 62<sup>nd</sup> New York Infantry regiment, Rigby's Battery "A" Light Artillery, Maryland, 61<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the Rhode Island Second Regiment Infantry. Elisha Hunt Rhodes, a Lieutenant in the Second Rhode Island Volunteers kept a diary of his experiences throughout the war. His unit camped near Downsville from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup> 1862. On Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup> he noted in his diary, "near our present camp

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there lives an old lady who supplies our mess with soft bread. On the march salt pork toasted on a stick with hard bread and coffee is our principal diet."<sup>7</sup>

Union and Confederate forces also occupied the Downsville area during the retreat from the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, while Confederates waited for the rain swollen Potomac River to recede (see attached map). After the Battle of Gettysburg, in July of 1863, a skirmish may have occurred at Downsville on July 7<sup>th</sup> involving General Couch's forces, against General Longstreet's, but there is no definitive record of it. Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart reported that on July 7<sup>th</sup>, "I proceeded to Downsville, establishing there a portion of Wofford's brigade, sent me for the purpose by General Longstreet, and posted Jenkins' cavalry brigade on that portion of our front in advance of the infantry."<sup>8</sup> On July 12<sup>th</sup> Union Cavalry General Buford reported:

It is so foggy that it is hard to discover anything. There seems to be but a few cavalymen between here and Downsville. At or near Downsville is a division of Longstreet, intrenching themselves. Their line is on a height just this side of Downsville. It extends south toward the river, in a very rugged country, with many stone walls parallel to their front.

The country on my left next to the river is impracticable for any considerable force to advance. I have come on to their infantry pickets; have been in range, but no shots have been exchanged. My ammunition is just coming up. During this fog I shall confine myself to scouting as closely to their line as I can.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. BUFORD.<sup>9</sup>

Union forces were also stationed near Downsville in July of 1864, assigned the task of picketing the various fords across the Potomac.<sup>10</sup> Effie Long recalled ca.1900 that breastworks, probably Confederate from 1863, were still in evidence on the edge of town.<sup>11</sup>

After the Civil War, Downsville returned to its peaceful existence, with roadside businesses catering largely to the surrounding agricultural community. The 1877 Atlas map (see attached) showed 24 buildings in the village, among them a church, two blacksmith shops, a wagon shop and a post office in the building owned by "C. Downs." Charles G. Downs (Jr.) died in 1868, but eventually the store and post mastership passed to his son Grafton Downs. Grafton Downs deeply interested in road improvements that would positively impact his home village. He was a director and secretary of the Downsville and Hagerstown Turnpike Company (Downsville Pike/Rt. 632), and was also a promoter of the Downsville and Williamsport Turnpike (Spielman Road/Rt. 63), which was completed in 1903

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over a path similar to much earlier road. Grafton Downs also promoted the Downsville Literary Society, and purchased a building to house the society in 1900 (no longer standing).<sup>12</sup> The Town Hall and Literary Society Meeting Hall stood at the southwest corner of the intersection of Natural Well Road and Dam #4 Road.<sup>13</sup>

In 1880, at the height of the C&O Canal, the population of Downsville had reached 200.<sup>14</sup> It appears that while several houses were constructed by new residents [8630 Downsville Pike; 8507 Dam #4 Rd.], many of the resident property owners in Downsville began updating their buildings [86515 Spielman Rd. (P. Long on 1877 map – see attached)]. Also a number of new houses replaced older dwellings around 1900, about the time of the turnpike improvements through Downsville. [16496 Spielman Rd. (C. Downs 1877); 16490 Spielman Rd. (D. Long 1877); 16484 Spielman Rd. (Mrs. Roe 1877); 8609 Downsville Pike (D. Bowers 1877); 8605 Downsville Pike (Wm. Snyder 1877)]

On the 1900 U.S. Population census, Grafton Downs described himself as a department store merchant. His young neighbor, Albert L. Bloom worked as a salesman in the store. Tilghman J. Fahrney operated a dry goods store. Other village residents included several blacksmiths, farm workers, railroad workers and a telegraph operator. Andrew Bowers, who is said to have lived in the former Lampkin house, was a C&O Canal laborer.<sup>15</sup> Isaac Long operated a fruit farm on the outskirts of Downsville. His oldest daughter, Effie Long, was a public school teacher. She wrote a "History of Downsville" in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, noting that the Lampkin house stood where the parsonage was at the time of her writing. The parsonage was located on the west side of Dam #4 Road (Downsville Pike) just south of the crossroads.

By 1920, the village population was 192, according to the Washington County "Merchants, Tradesmen and Manufacturers Business Directory" for that year. The directory recorded three businesses in Downsville, Albert L. Bloom operated a general store, as did T.J. Fahrney, and Grafton Downs sold lime and fertilizers.<sup>16</sup>

After several decades of decline, the C&O Canal ceased operations in 1924 following a devastating flood. But as the canal declined, a new form of transportation had emerged, the automobile. At the Downsville crossroads, new businesses appeared catering to automobile traffic. The cast block gas station, seen in the attached 1976 photograph [16499 Spielman Rd.], was constructed ca.1925 across the road from the former Downs store house. Another concrete block garage building was added to the property ca.1930 [16497 Spielman Rd.].

The 1930 U.S. Population census record for Downsville District indicated that much of the land surrounding Downsville was occupied with general farming. Grafton Downs (Sr.), age 65, was listed living on his "Own Farm" while 28-year-old Grafton Downs (Jr.) worked as a Clerk in the General



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Store. Albert L. Bloom was listed as the "General Store Keeper" [possibly current frame "Downsville General Store" adjoining 8642 Downsville Pike]. Tilghman J. Fahrney, at age 69, no longer had an occupation listed. A large number of tanners were also living in the area, probably working at the Byron Tannery in nearby Williamsport. Effie Long was still working as a school teacher, as were her young cousins, the two granddaughters of Joshua Long, [Emma] and [Ella] Baker. Wrote Effie Long of the Downsville School: "In 1877 a two room frame building was built in Downsville. This building was used until the present three room graded school was built in 1896."<sup>17</sup> The 1896 school building was destroyed by fire around 1920 and replaced by the building standing today [8629 Downsville Pike, Downsville Ruritan Center] in Downsville.

Although many Washington County farms converted to more general farming and added dairy to their production, small farm agriculture was beginning to decline in the region through the 1940s and 1950s. Reductions in farm labor needs resulted in smaller rural town populations. Post WWII housing also impacted small town landscapes with older buildings being replaced by Federal Housing Administration inspired modern housing.

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Paula S. Reed & Assoc., Settlement Context, "Antietam National Battlefield," National Register Nomination Update, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> TJC Williams, History of Washington County gives the date as 1852, (p. 945); a "History of Downsville" written by Effie Long, ca. 1900 (undated) gives the date of the founding as 1848.

<sup>3</sup> Williams, p. 945.

<sup>4</sup> Official Records (OR) (series 1, unless noted otherwise) Vol. II, p. 729.

<sup>5</sup> OR, XIX, pt. 1, p. 130.

<sup>6</sup> OR XIX pt. 2, p. 40.

<sup>7</sup> "The Diary of a Union Soldier," Elisha Hunt Rhodes (1842-1917),

[http://www.wvnorton.com/college/history/archive/resources/documents/ch17\\_04.htm](http://www.wvnorton.com/college/history/archive/resources/documents/ch17_04.htm)

<sup>8</sup> OR XXVII, 2, p. 703.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p. 657.

<sup>10</sup> OR XXXVII, 2, p.453, 484-485. Much of the information pertaining to Civil War activity in and around Downsville was provided by Thomas G. Clemens, Civil War historian, Keedysville, MD.

<sup>11</sup> Effie Long, a "History of Downsville," ca. 1900 (undated).

<sup>12</sup> Williams, p. 946.

<sup>13</sup> Interview with Sandy Izer, historian, Downsville, MD May, 2008.

<sup>14</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland, CD-ROM, Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2002, p. 1310.

<sup>15</sup> Williams, p. 945.

<sup>16</sup> Mercantile Agency Reference Book, September, "Merchants, Tradesmen And Manufacturers Business Directory, Including Financial Ratings, for Washington County, Maryland" R.G. Dun, 1920, Salem, Ohio: Jan and Naomi McPeck, 2004.

<sup>17</sup> Effie Long, a "History of Downsville," ca. 1900 (undated).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

WA-II-273

Downsville Survey District  
name of property

Washington County, Maryland  
county and state

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

*WA-II-273*

Downsville Survey District  
name of property

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county and state

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Downsville Survey District boundary is centered on the historic crossroads of MD Rt. 632, the Downsville Pike/Dam #4 Road, and MD Rt. 63, Spielman Road. The boundary follows the parcels fronting on these roads. A short section of Natural Well Road is also included within the boundary. The district ends at the extent of the concentration of historic structures. The district boundary includes one small former farm at each the south end of Dam 4 Road and the north end of the Downsville Pike. These farmhouses are located close to the road and contiguous to the town's historic buildings. See attached Washington County Tax Map #61 and USGS Williamsport Quad for boundary details.

### Boundary Justification

The Downsville Survey District boundary represents the historic crossroads village of Downsville as it grew over approximately 100 years, from its establishment around 1852 to the end of its period of significance in 1958.

**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
8420 Dam #4 Rd.  Wayne B. & J. Lorraine Jamison 8420 DAM #4 RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-2025	mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story frame house, rear 1-story kitchen; 5 bays x 2 bays, center entrance; front porch, NE chimney (probably had matching NW chimney); vinyl siding, 2/2 sash windows with pedimented windowheads, asphalt shingle roof w/ decorative brackets, stone cellar w/ SW entrance; yard enclosed by board fence; historic stone wall across road (faces SE) Outbuildings: frame summer kitchen w/ stone foundation and chimney, German siding; 3-bay concrete block garage and shed A building is indicated in this vicinity on the 1859 Taggart Map. 'S. Long' appears to have owned this site on the 1877 Atlas.	X	
8439 Dam #4 Rd. (WA-II-274)  Stellar Properties LLC 11620 PINESBURG RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-2168	c.1859	Former brick church, now a dwelling; 3 bays x 4 bays, modern brick SE addition; gable end w/ central entrance faces Natural Well Rd. to NE; 6:1 common bond, modern 1/1 sash windows (some paired) infilled above to straight arch brick windowheads, brick dentil course at cornice, metal roof, stone foundation (side faces NW) Former Downsville Church of the Brethren (WA-II-274)	X	
8440 Dam #4 Rd.  Ralph W. Saunders 8440 DAM #4 RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795	1949	1-story brick house, 'Cape Cod' style, 2 stories at rear; 3 bays x 2 bays w/ projecting sections SE and NE plus rear 2-story section; front porch, NE chimney; all-stretcher bond, asphalt shingle roof, 6/6 sash windows, Outbuildings: concrete block garage and 2 sheds	X	
8501 Dam #4 Rd.  Douglas R. Barnhart c/o Robert Barnhart 14432 TOLLGATE RD. HANCOCK MD 21750-1924	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 3 bays; main entrance centered on gable end facing SW old Natural Well Rd., porch w/ chamfered posts and jigsawn balustrade; central NW entrance w/ porch, rear porch, NE and SW chimneys; vinyl siding, modern 1/1 sash windows, metal roof, cement-covered foundation (long side faces NW) Outbuildings: frame summer kitchen w/ brick chimney, German siding, metal roof; frame shed This site may have been occupied by Mrs. Downs in 1877, according to the Atlas of that year.	X	

C = contributing; N/C = noncontributing

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
8502 Dam #4 Rd.  Roy V. Jr. & Rebecca L. Casto 8502 DAM #4 RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795	c.1900	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays, 1-story addition at E corner; central entrance and porch w/ chamfered posts and decorative brackets, NE cellar entrance; vinyl siding, 6/6 and 1/1 sash windows, metal roof, cement-covered cellar (faces SE) Outbuildings: frame summer kitchen attached to W corner by small addition, frame outbuilding connected to N corner; frame garage, 2 frame sheds	X	
8505 Dam #4 Rd.  Susanne Epps Tuennerman 8505 DAM #4 RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795	1957	1-story brick rancher; 3 bays x 3 bays, carport and chimney NE end; all-stretcher bond, sash windows divided horizontally 2/2, front picture window, asphalt shingle roof (faces NW) Outbuildings: modern gambrel-roofed shed	X	
8507 Dam #4 Rd.  Christopher L. & Magan Miller 8507 DAM #4 RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays, rear ell; central entrance and front porch w/ tapered square posts on brick piers, SW chimney; vinyl siding, 1/1 and 6/6 sash windows, metal roof, cement-covered foundation (faces NW) Outbuildings: 1-story concrete block summer kitchen, 2 frame sheds	X	
8508 Dam #4 Rd.  James E. & Constance E. Artz 17024 BAKERSVILLE RD BOONSBORO MD 21713-2302	Pre- 1859	2-story brick house; 3 bays x 2 bays, central entrance, front porch w/ turned posts and decorative brackets, SW and NE chimneys; 6:1 common bond, modern 1/1 sash windows, arched windowheads, metal roof, stone cellar (faces SE) Outbuildings: concrete block summer kitchen, stone chimney w/ brick stack; concrete block garage This may be the house indicated in this vicinity on the 1859 Taggart Map.	X	
8511 Dam #4 Rd.  Carl W. & Helen L. Socks 8511 DAM #4 RD	Pre- 1877	2-story brick house; 3 bays x 2 bays, rear 1-story brick ell and frame addition; entrance in left bay of façade, front porch w/ turned posts and decorative brackets, NE & SW chimneys; 6:1 common bond, brick dentil course at cornice, 6/6 and 2/2 sash windows w/ wooden lintels, standing seam metal roof w/ snowbirds, stone cellar (faces NW)	X	

C = contributing; N/C = noncontributing

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795		Outbuildings: modern frame shed		
8514 Dam #4 Rd.  David T. Spigler 8514 DAM #4 RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795	1857	2-story brick house; 3 bays x 2 bays; porch w/ columns wraps around SW & SE sides; central entrance, SW and NE chimneys, SW access stair from porch roof to attic; 6:1 common bond, dentil course, 2/2 and 6/6 sash windows, standing seam metal roof w/ snowbirds, stone cellar (faces SE) Outbuildings: timber frame barn w/ loft This may be the house indicated in this area on the 1859 Taggart Map. It appears that Mrs. Baughley (Beachley) lived here in 1877, according to the Atlas.	X	
8601 Downsville Pike  Roger L. & Emma Jane Malatt 16480 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4109	1901	2-story frame house; 5 bays x 2 bays, 1-story rear addition; entrances 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> bay from left; front porch; aluminum siding, 2/2 and 1/1 sash windows, metal roof, stone cellar w/ SW entrance (faces NW) Outbuildings: concrete block garage	X	
8605 Downsville Pike  Michael K.H. & Adam C. Whetzel 8605 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story brick house; 3 bays x 1 bay, 2-story 2-part rear frame addition covered w/ aluminum siding; enclosed front porch; 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, 6:1 common bond; 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, all-stretcher bond; asphalt shingle roof, stone foundation (faces NW) Outbuildings: frame shed According to the 1877 Atlas, Wm. Snyder lived here at that time. The house may have been rebuilt c. 1900.	X	
8609 Downsville Pike  Michael K.H. & Adam C. Whetzel 8605 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story frame house; 5 bays x 2 bays, rear ell w/ stone chimney; entrances 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> bays from left, front semi-enclosed porch, NE and central chimneys; German siding w/ remnants of tarpaper & aluminum siding; 6/6, 2/2, and 1/1 sash windows; metal roof, stone foundation (faces NW) Outbuildings: frame garage, shed D. Bowers is indicated as the owner of this property in 1877, according to the Atlas. The house may have been rebuilt c. 1900.	X	

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273  
Washington County, Maryland  
Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
8611 Downsville Pike  Michael S. Forcino 8611 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	1907	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays, rear ell, 1-story addition; modern front porch; aluminum siding, modern 1/1 sash windows, asphalt shingle roof, cement-covered foundation (faces NW) Outbuildings: frame garage	X	
8613 Downsville Pike  Adam W. Lewis 8613 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story brick house; 3 bays x 2 bays, rear frame ell; central entrance, front porch w/ square tapered posts on brick piers, NE & SW chimneys; 6:1 common bond, dentil course, 6/6 and 6/1 sash windows w/ straight arch windowheads, metal roof w/ snowbirds, stone foundation (faces NW) Outbuildings: large square 2-bay frame garage, hip roof, wooden lapped siding	X	
8617 Downsville Pike  Jerry L. & Ruth M. Hammond 8617 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	1900	2-story frame house; 2 bays x 1 bay, rear ell, 1-story addition, enclosed porch, 1-story addition SW end; aluminum siding, 6/6 sash windows, asphalt shingle roof, cement-covered foundation (faces NW) Outbuildings: concrete block garage, frame shed	X	
8621 Downsville Pike  Dawn M. Gossard 8621 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	1963	Frame rancher w/ vinyl/rock siding		X
8622 Downsville Pike  Marion G. & Connie S. Gaylor 7014 HOUSER RD SHARPSBURG MD 21782-1104	mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays; central entrance, rear porch, SW chimney & cellar entrance; asbestos siding, 1/1 sash windows, metal roof w/ snowbirds (faces SE) Outbuildings: small frame barn or stable w/ vertical board and German siding, metal roof, stone foundation	X	

C = contributing; N/C = noncontributing

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
8629 Downsville Pike  Ruritan Club Inc. Downsville c/o Eston T. Leatherman 16125 CLOVERTON LN WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-1120	c. 1930	1-story brick building: Downsville Ruritan Center; NE & SW sides, 5 bays, brick entrance porches w/ arched openings; NW & SE sides 10 bays long; 5 courses stretchers to one course alternate stretchers/headers (5:1 Flemish bond), soldier course window lintels and sills, 6/9 & 12/12 sash windows, flat roof, stone cellar (NW side faces road) Outbuildings: brick shed Former Downsville School	X	
8630 Downsville Pike  Donald J. Houser 9034 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4014	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays, rear 1 ½ story ell w/ NE porch enclosed on ends, SW porch enclosed; central entrance, front porch w/ round tapered columns, SW, NE and ell chimneys; aluminum siding, 2/2 sash windows, metal roof w/ snowbirds, stone cellar (faces SE) Outbuildings: 6-bay timber frame barn w/ SE forebay, vertical board siding, metal roof; concrete block shed; 2 modern frame stables	X	
8642 Downsville Pike  William C. Blair 8659 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	c. 1925	2-story brick house, 'Foursquare' style; 2 bays x 3 bays, 2 rear 1-story additions; entrance right bay of façade, cellar entrance center of NE side; front porch, square tapered posts on brick piers; front dormer, central chimney; modified Flemish bond, each row 2 stretchers to one dark-glazed header; 4/2 sash windows, pyramid roof w/ asphalt shingles, cement foundation (faces SE) Shed-roofed frame general store to S; 1-story 2-bay section, 2-story 5-bay section; German siding & vinyl siding, large modern 2-pane windows (faces SE) Outbuildings: frame shed, frame garage	X	
8648 Downsville Pike  Donald L. & Pauline V. Ewing 8648 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4006	1928	1-story brick bungalow; 2 bays x 3 bays, small addition NE side; deep front porch w tapered square posts on brick piers, entrance w/ sidelights and transom to right; front gabled dormer; all-stretcher bond, frame gable ends, 3/1 sash windows, asphalt shingle roof, rusticated concrete block cellar (faces SE) Outbuildings: brick shed, frame garage	X	

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
8652 Downsville Pike  Ernest C. Hott, Jr. & Brenda J. Bowders 15713 HOTT LN SHARPSBURG MD 21785-1019	1950	1-story brick cottage; 4 bays x 2 bays with projecting gabled right bay; central entrance under front porch, SW chimney; all-stretcher bond, 1/1 sash windows, asphalt shingle roof, concrete foundation (faces SE)	X	
8656 Downsville Pike  Janet M. Weidner 8656 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4006	1978	1-story frame house		X
8660 Downsville Pike  Erona G. Cissel & Janet M. Weidner 8656 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4006	2006	2-story frame house		X
8664 Downsville Pike  William C. Blair 8659 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	1907	2-story frame house; 3 bay x 1 bay, rear ell w galleried SW porch; 2 front entrances to left, front porch, NE chimney; aluminum siding, 2/2 & 1/1 sash windows, metal roof w/ snowbirds, cement foundation (faces SE) Outbuildings: 2-story summer kitchen w/ stone chimney at W corner of ell; frame garage, 2 concrete block sheds	X	
8668 Downsville Pike  Bitner Properties LLC 14241 FALLING WATERS RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-2074	2006	2-story frame house		X

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
8672 Downsville Pike  Keith Wright 8672 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4006	1965	1-story brick rancher		X
8674 Downsville Pike  Rebecca A. Settle 8674 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4006	1974	1-story brick rancher		X
8680 Downsville Pike  James S. McCleod & Joyce A. McCoy 8680 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4006	mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story stone house; 3 bay x 2 bay limestone house with rear stone ell, two 2-story rear frame additions; central entrance, front porch w/ turned posts and decorative brackets, SW & NE chimneys, porch and stone chimney, SW side of ell; large stone quoins, keystone windowheads; vinyl siding on frame sections, 2/2 sash windows, functional louvered shutters, new metal roof w/ snowbirds, stone cellar & rear foundation (faces SE) Outbuildings: small timberframed bank barn, vertical board siding, jigsawn bargeboards, metal roof; frame shed, concrete block shed	X	
16484 Spielman Rd.  Clyde M. Gaylor 16484 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4109	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays, rear ell, 1-story addition; front porch enclosed at N end, central entrance, N chimney; vinyl siding, 1/1 sash windows, asphalt shingle roof (faces W) Outbuildings: 3 frame sheds, garage This site was owned by Mrs. Roe in 1877, according to the Atlas published that year. It may have been rebuilt circa 1900.	X	
16490 Spielman Rd.	1907	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays; entrance w/ porch on N gable end, porch and 2-story section at rear connect 1 ½ story summer kitchen w brick chimney; vinyl siding, 1/1 windows, metal roof, stone foundation	X	

C = contributing; N/C = noncontributing

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
Gerald M. & Evie J. Burge 16490 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4109		(faces W) This site was occupied by D. Long in 1877, according to the Atlas. It may have been rebuilt c. 1907.		
16491 Spielman Rd.  Barbara R. & Eldon E. Miller 16491 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4118	1939	1-story frame bungalow; 3 bays x 3 bays; central façade entrance w/ porch, S entrance w/ porch, central chimney; vinyl siding, modern sash windows, asphalt shingle roof, concrete cellar (faces E)	X	
16496 Spielman Rd.  Russell L. Seibert, Sr. 16496 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-0155	c. 1900	2-story frame house; 4 bays x 2 bays; central entrance w/ sidelights & transom, front porch, S bay window, N chimney; vinyl siding, modern windows w/ pedimented windowheads, metal roof (faces W) Outbuildings: 3 frame sheds This is the location of the original 1850s Downs Store, probably rebuilt c. 1900. The present dwelling may incorporate parts of the original building.	X	
16497 & 16499 Spielman Rd.  Barbara R. & Eldon E. Miller 16491 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4118	1925/ 1930	2 1-story concrete block buildings; S is former store and gas station (1925), 4-bay rusticated block, shed roof, limestone foundation; N (1930) is gable-roofed garage; one garage bay to S, 2 windows to N (both face east) Additional buildings at rear of lot: 2 concrete block garages, concrete block shed, frame shed This may be the site upon which a blacksmith shop is indicated on the 1877 Atlas.	X	
16503 Spielman Rd.  Charles A. Van Metre 16503 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4112	1856	2-story brick house; 3 bay x 1 bay, rear 1 ½ story ell w/ S enclosed porch; central entrance, front porch w/ columns, 1-story flat roofed addition S end, N & S chimneys; 7:1 common bond, dentil cornice, soldier course windowheads, 6/1 sash windows, standing seam metal roof w/ snowbirds, stone cellar w/ S entrance (faces E) Outbuildings: 4-bay shed-roofed concrete block garage	X	

C = contributing; N/C = noncontributing

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
		The 1877 Atlas indicates that Mrs. Highberger owned this home at that time. This also may be a house shown on the 1859 Taggart map.		
16508 Spielman Rd.  Kristine S. Case 16508 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4111	1874	2-story brick house; 3 bays x 2 bays, 1-story addition on N; central entrance, front porch w/ turned posts, N & S chimneys; wooden lintels, modern 1/1 sash windows, standing seam metal roof, stone cellar (faces W) Outbuildings: modern gambrel-roofed shed This may be the house owned by the Newman Estate, according to the 1877 Atlas.	X	
16512 Spielman Rd.  Lossie F. & Richard Perkins 16512 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4111	1950	1-story brick rancher; 4 bays x 1 bay w/ frame garage; porch over left 2 bays, entrance 2 <sup>nd</sup> bay from left; central chimney on façade; all stretcher bond modern 6/1 sash and picture window, asphalt shingle roof (faces W) Outbuildings: frame shed	X	
16515 Spielman Rd.  Mike & Leondine Saponara 16515 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4112	1886	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays, rear ell, enclosed porches front & back, S chimney; wood shingles over German siding, 6/6 sash windows, metal roof w/ snowbirds, stone cellar (faces E) Outbuildings: concrete block garage, shed	X	
16516 Spielman Rd.  Joyce E. Lewis c/o Joyce E. Mills 16516 SPIELMAN RD WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4111	1902	2-story frame house; 3 bays x 2 bays, rear one-story addition w/ S porch & chimney; central entrance, front porch, N chimney; vinyl siding, modern 1/1 sash windows, metal roof (faces W) Outbuildings: frame garage	X	
16523 Spielman Rd.	Pre-1859	2-story brick house; 3 bays x 2 bays, S & W 1-story frame additions; porch w/ chamfered posts and jigsawn balustrade wraps around E & S, N & S chimneys; all stretcher bond (may be brickcased	X	

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**Downsville Survey District WA-II-273**  
**Washington County, Maryland**  
**Resource Inventory**

Property Address/ Owner Address	Date	Property Description	C	N/C
Donald J. & Mae M. & Mary Della Houser 9034 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4014		log), jack-arch windowheads, 1/1, 2/2, 6/6 sash windows, stone cellar, metal roof w/ snowbirds (faces E) note: property adjoins abandoned section of old Natural Well Rd. with historic stone wall along the SW Outbuildings: whitewashed log smokehouse, square-cut corner notching, stone foundation, stone chimney w/ brick stack, metal roof; concrete block shed; frame shed; small timberframed barn This may be the house indicated in this location on the 1859 Taggart map. The site was occupied by George Taylor in 1877, according to the Atlas.		
8641 Downsville Pike  Christian Church Downsville 8641 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795	1952	Downsville Christian Church and Parsonage Large brick church; 6 bays x 3 bays, 3 1-story rear additions; gable front entrance w/ large portico, central belltower, SW vestibule w/ 1869 datestone from previous church; brick buttresses, Flemish bond variation of 5 courses all-stretcher to 1 course alternate header/stretcher, 6/6 & 12/12 sash windows, asphalt shingle roof, concrete block cellar (gable faces NW) Parsonage: 1-story brick rancher; 4 bays x 2 bays (NE bay projects), front porch, rear carport; all-stretcher bond, 6/1 sash windows, asphalt shingle roof, concrete block cellar (faces NW) The Downsville Christian Church was founded in 1868.	X	
8653 Downsville Pike  Eric S. & Donna M. Schroyer 8653 DOWNSVILLE PIKE WILLIAMSPORT MD 21795-4007	1954	1-story brick rancher; 3 bays (southernmost bay projects) x 3 bays; central entrance, front porch, NE chimney; all-stretcher bond, 6/1 and joined sets of 1/1 sash windows, asphalt shingle roof (faces NW) Outbuildings: brick garage, frame garage, brick shed	X	

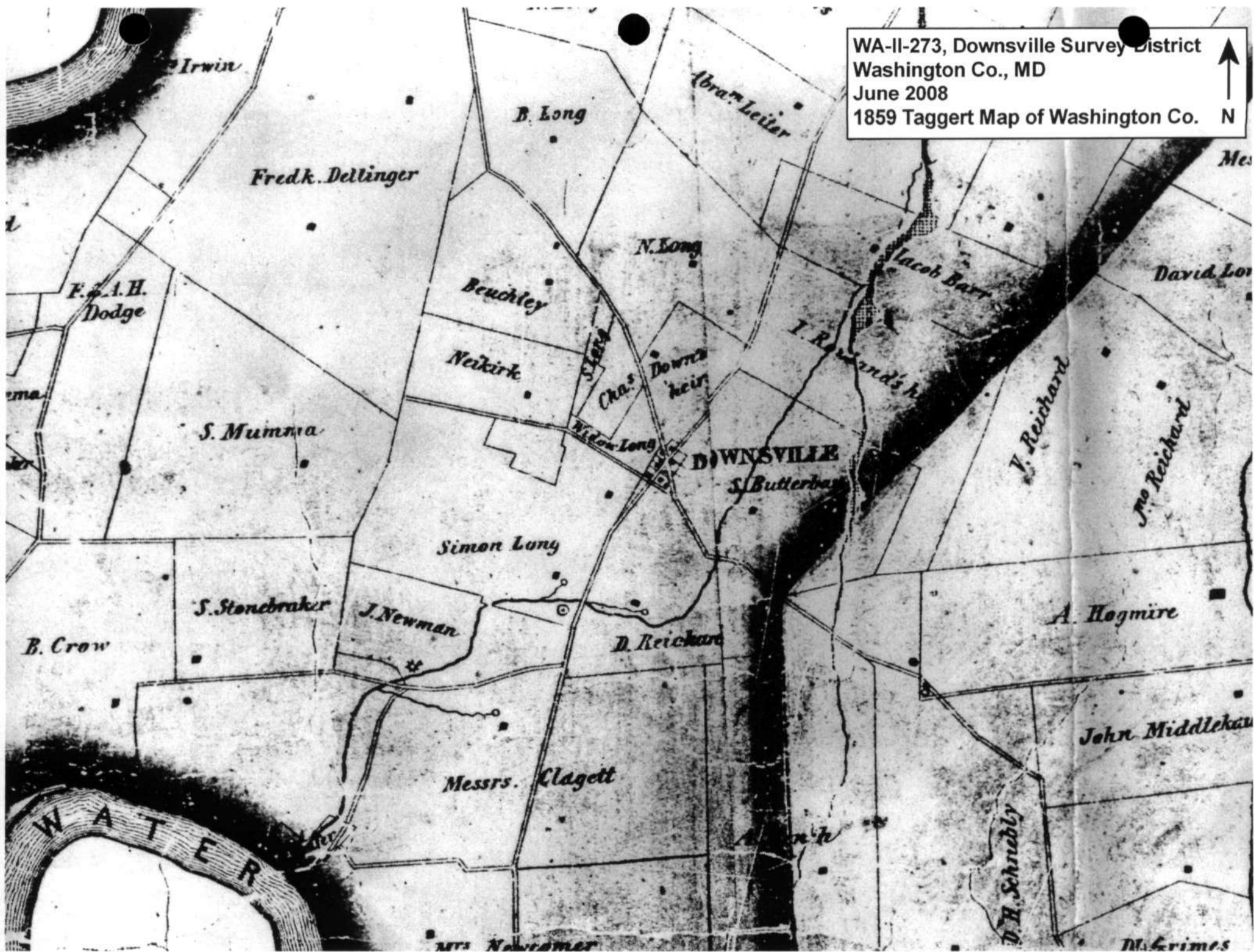
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WA-II-273, Downsville Survey District  
Washington Co., MD  
June 2008  
1859 Taggart Map of Washington Co.



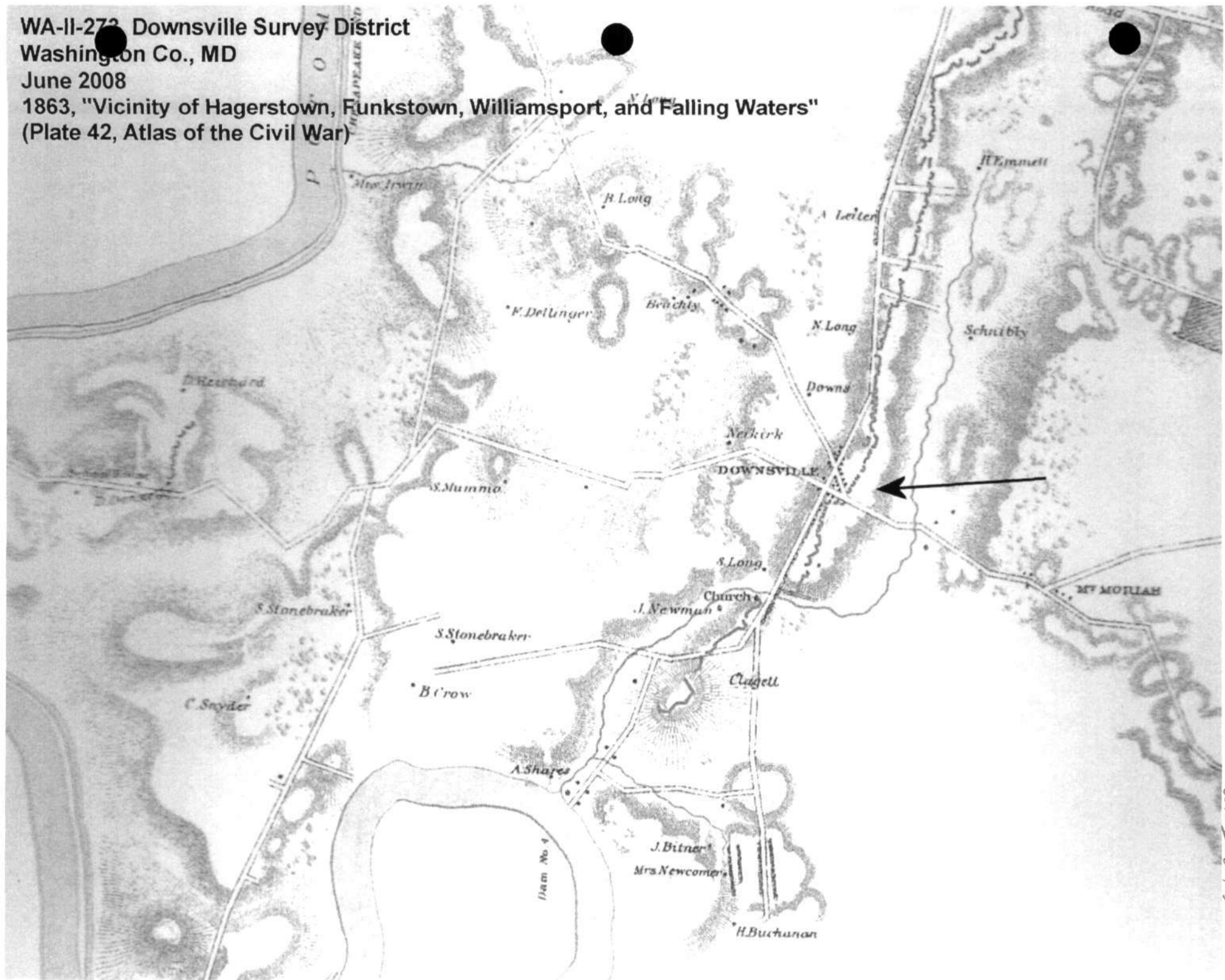
WA-II-273 Downsville Survey District

Washington Co., MD

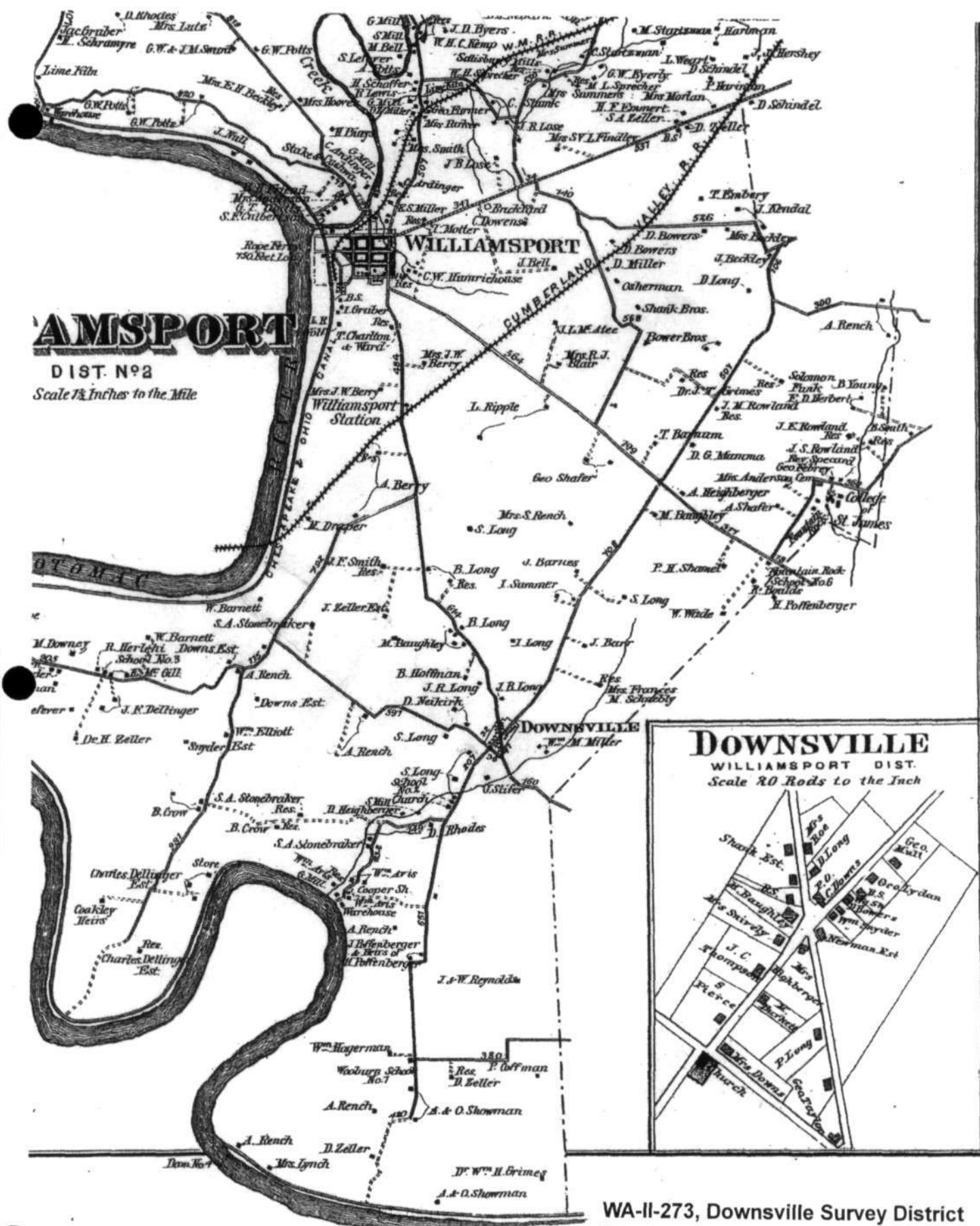
June 2008

1863, "Vicinity of Hagerstown, Funkstown, Williamsport, and Falling Waters"

(Plate 42, Atlas of the Civil War)



WA-II-273





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M. Schiebley

WA-II-273, Downsville Survey District  
Washington Co., MD  
June 2008  
1877 Atlas of Washington Co.  
Downsville map detail

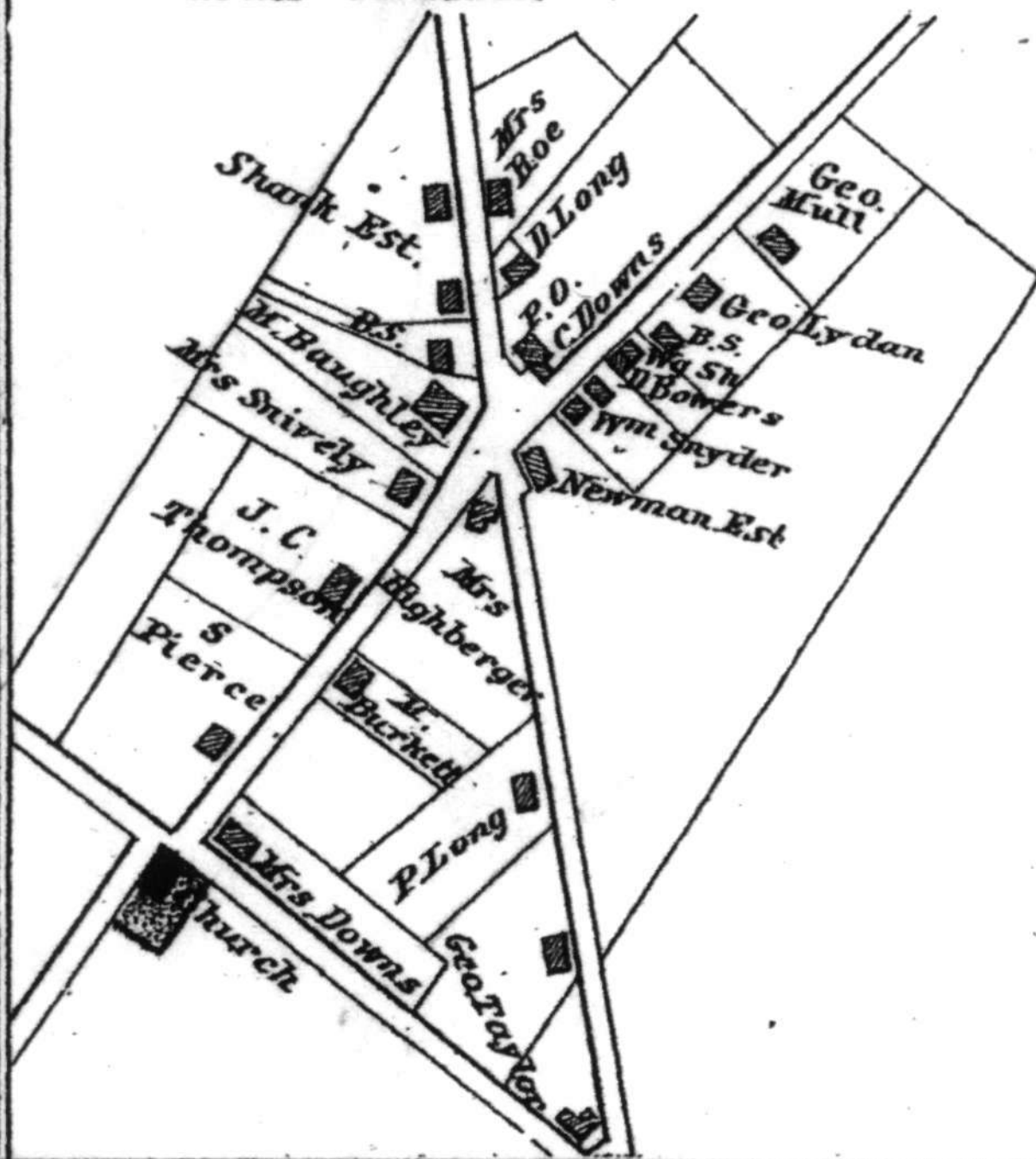


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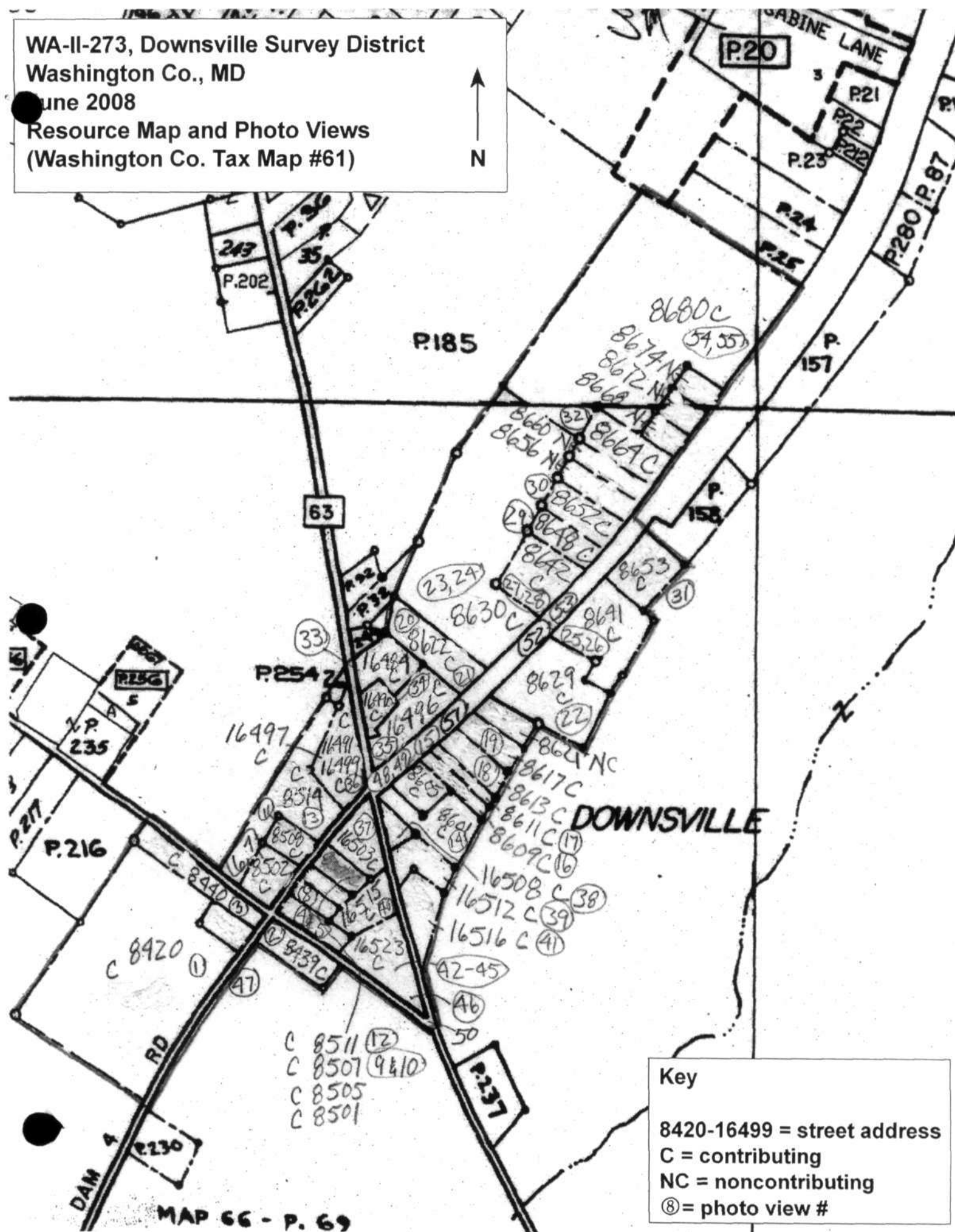
WILLIAMSPORT DIST.

Scale 20 Rods to the Inch



### Resource Map and Photo Views (Washington Co. Tax Map #61)

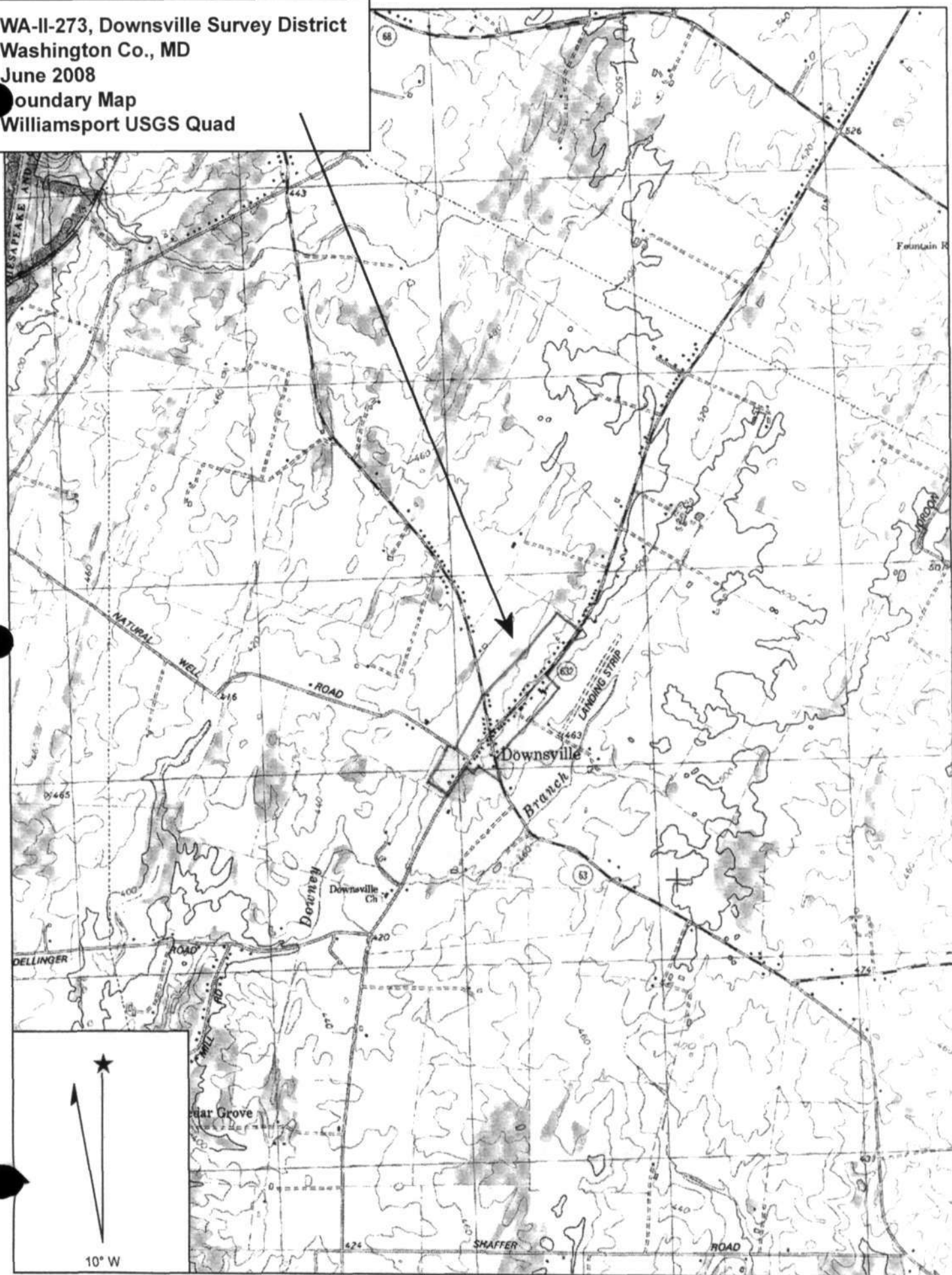
# N



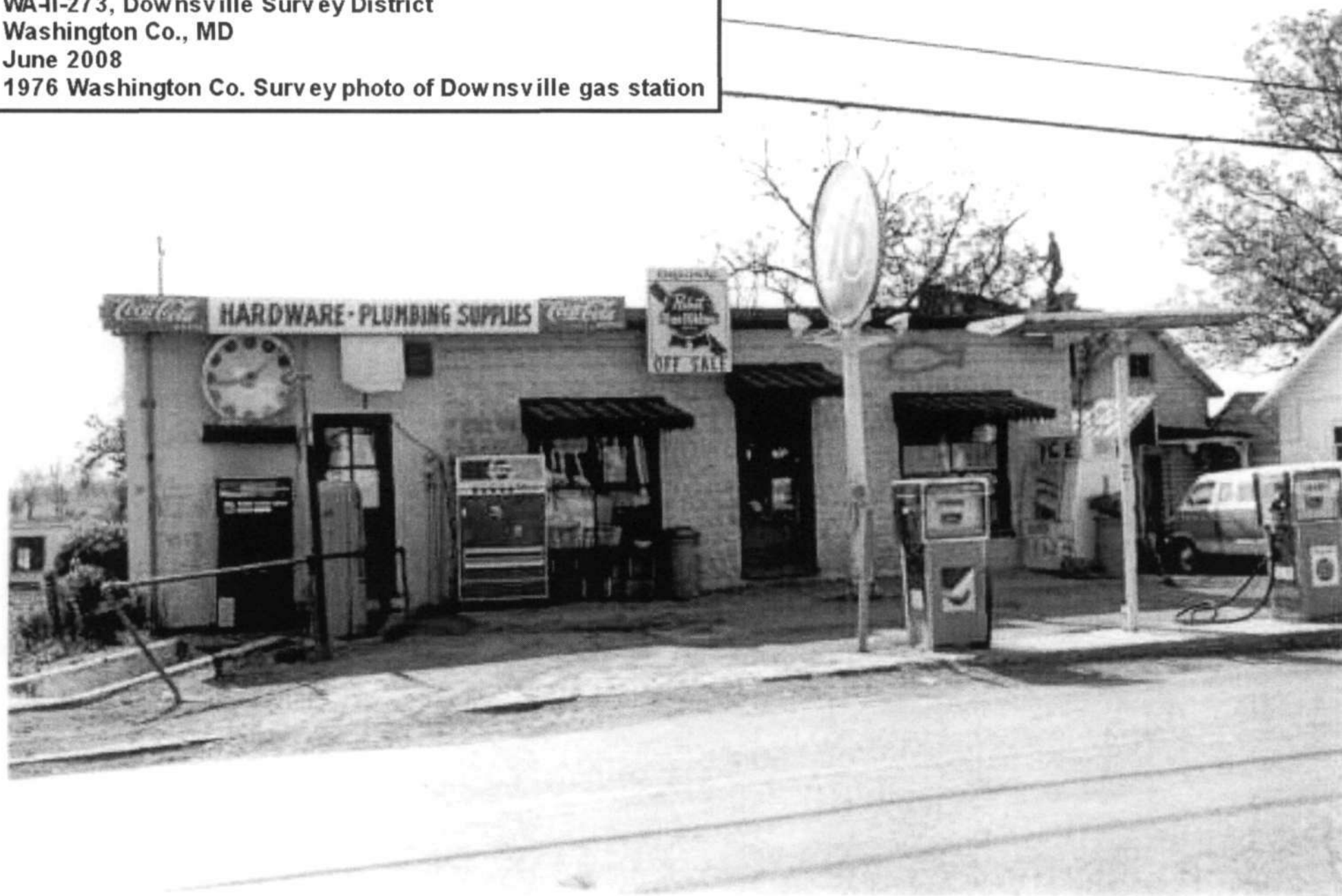
## Key

8420-16499 = street address  
C = contributing  
NC = noncontributing  
⑧ = photo view #

WA-II-273, Downsville Survey District  
Washington Co., MD  
June 2008  
Boundary Map  
Williamsport USGS Quad



WA-II-273, Downsville Survey District  
Washington Co., MD  
June 2008  
1976 Washington Co. Survey photo of Downsville gas station







8420 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

SEE lev

1/55



8439 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District Wit II 273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NE & NW elev.

2/55





6440 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

SE elev

3/55



8501 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NW 3/4 Sec 16

4/55





8501 Dam 4 Rd-

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPD

NE & NW elev

5/55



8502 Dam 4 Ed.

Downsville Survey District WA-II 213

Washington Co., MD

PRA, INC.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

SE & NE elev

6/55



8502 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA # - 273

Washington Co., MD

4/08

PRA, Inc.

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

SW & SE elev

7/55





8505 Dam 4 Rd.  
Downsville Survey District WA II-2 13  
Washington Co., MD  
PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NE & NW elev.

8/55



8507 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District W4-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDS4PO

NE & NW elev

9/55





8507 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA II 213

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. : MDSHPO

HW is SW elev.

10/55



8508 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District W.I.-II 273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. : MDSHPO  
SE elev

11/55



8511 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA II -273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NW elev.

12/55





8514 Dam 4 Rd.

Downsville Survey District

WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

11/08

Neg. Loc. - MDS&D

SE Elev.

13/55



8601 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey Tract WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4108

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPD

NW & SW elev.

14/55



8605 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NE & NW 1/4

15/55





8609 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NE & NW elev

16/55



8611 Downsville Pk.

Downsville Survey District WA-II-213

Washington Co., MD

Photo Credit: PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. : MHT

NE & NW elev.

17/55



8613 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NE & NW elev

18/55

WA-II-273





8617 Downsville Twp

Downsville Survey District WA II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSAPD

NE elev.

19/55



8622 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHDO

barn: SE elev.

20/55



8622 Downsville Pk

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

SE & NE elev.

21/55



8629 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. : MDSHPO

NE elev.

22/55





8630 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

Neg. Loc. : MDSHPO

SEU & NE elev.

23/55



8630 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II 213

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

Burn: SE & NE elev:

24/55



8641 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NW 1/4 SW elev.

25/55



8641 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. i MDSHPO

NE  $\approx$  NW elev.

26/55





5642 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II-213

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

store: SE elev

27/55



8642 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District W4-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, INC.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MD5470

SE & NE elev.

28/55



8648 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District     W-4 I 273  
Washington Co., MD

Photo Credit: PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MHT

SE elev.

29/55



8652 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPG

SE elev.

30/55

WA-TI-273





8653 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

NW elev.

31/55



9664 Downsville Pike

WA-II-273

Downsville Survey District  
Washington Co., MD

Photo Credit: PFA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MHT  
SW & SE elev.

32/55



16484 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District

WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

w/ elev.

33/55



16490 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District W/4-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

W & S elev.

34/55





16496 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

w elev.

35/55



16499 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District VA-D-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

E elev.

36/55



16503 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co, MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHTPO

E elev.

37/55



16508 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPE

W. elev.

38/55





16512 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District W 4-E-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

W. elev.

39/55



16515 Spielman Rd.

Douville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. MDSHPO

E. elev.

40/55



16516 Spielman Rd

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

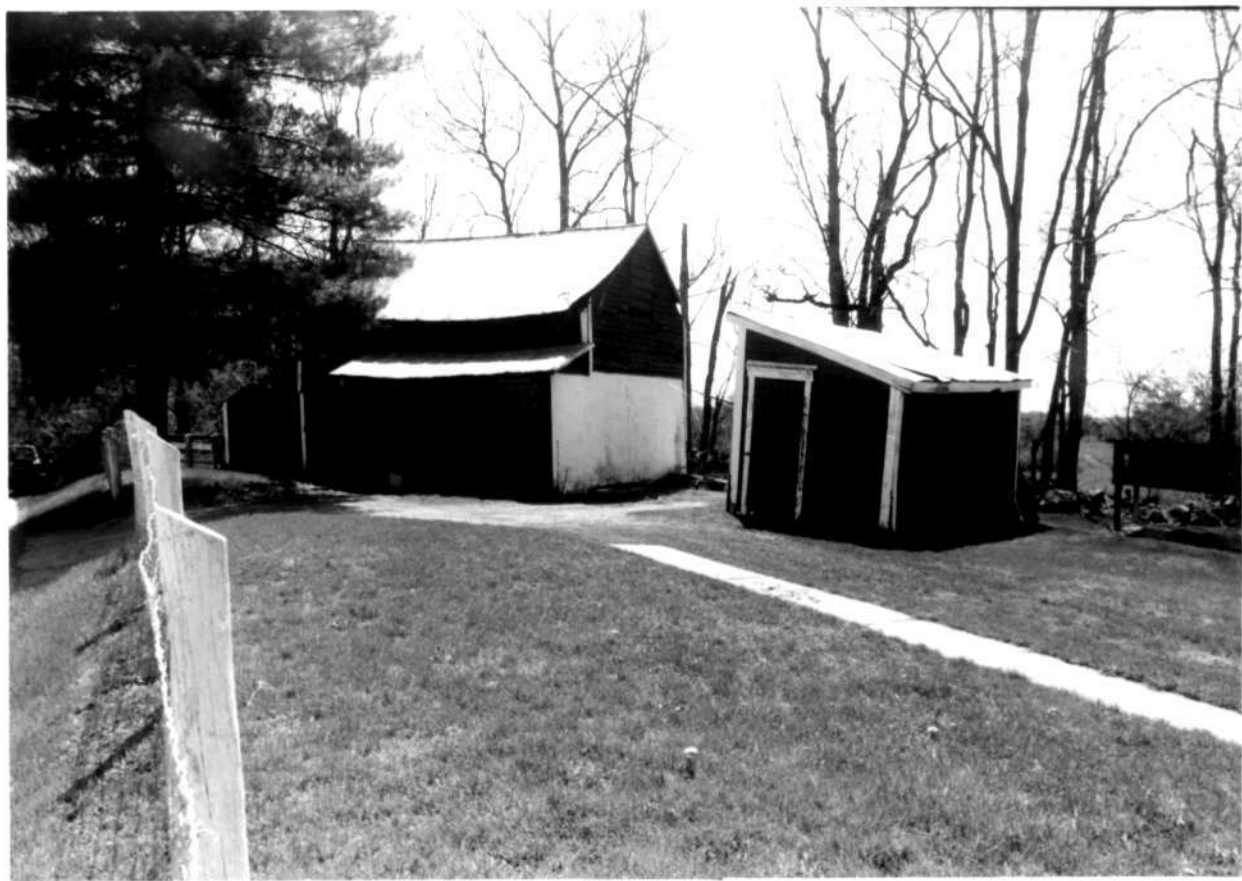
PRH, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHTO

W. elev.

41/55



16523 Spielman Rd

Downsville Survey District WA-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/108

Neg. Loc. : MDSHPO

E & N elev (barn & shed)

42/55





16523 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA II-273

Washington Co., MD

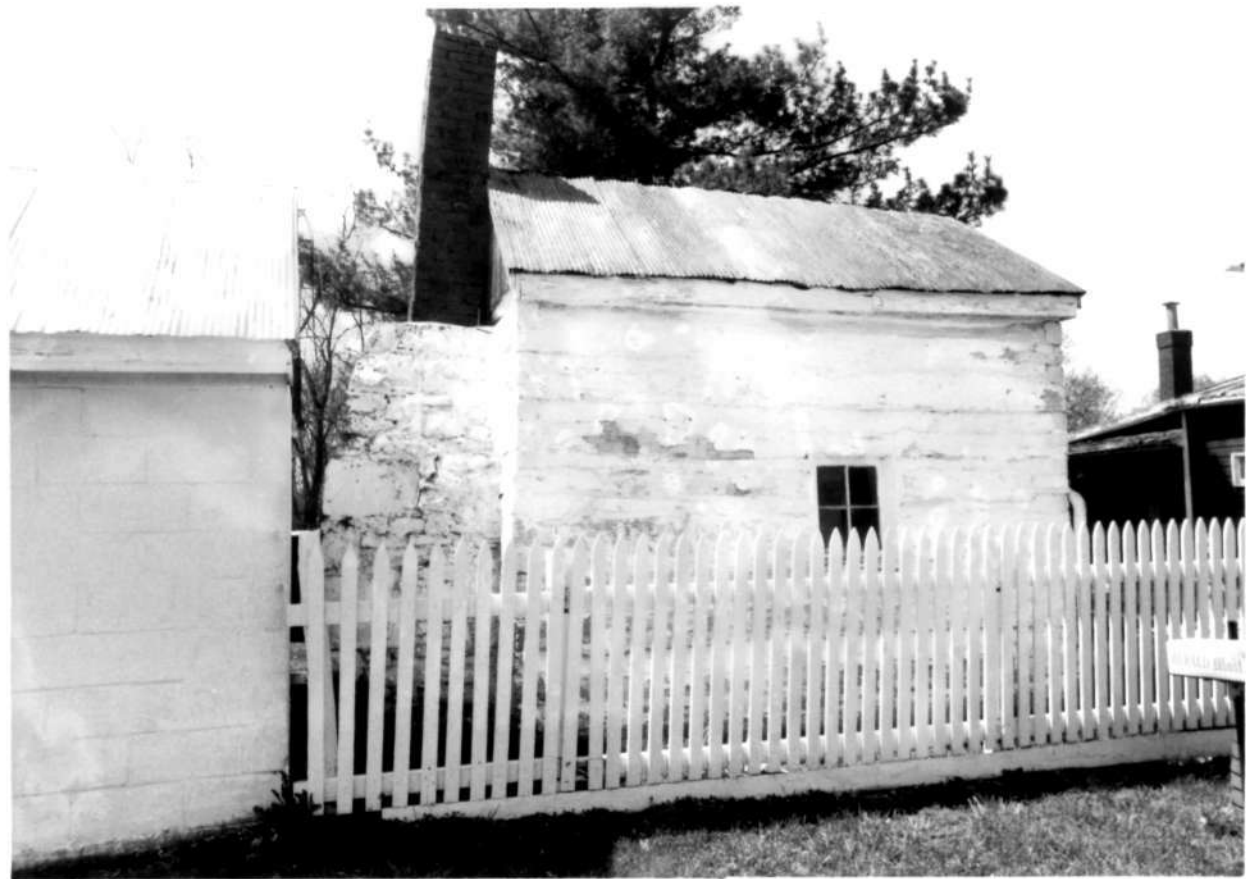
PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

E elev.

43/55



16523 Spielman Rd.  
Downsville Survey District WA-II-213  
Washington Co., MD  
PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. : MDSHPO  
E (summer kitchen)  
elev.

44/55



16523 Spielman Rd.

Downsville Survey District WA II - 273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MD SHPO

S & E elev

45/55



16523 Spielman Rd.

Douneville Survey District W.D.-II 273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. MDSHP

S elev (barn); old Natural Well Rd; historic stone wall

46/55





Downsville Survey District WA-I-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

Looking NE on Dam 4 Rd. S. of Natural Well Rd.

note: historic stone wall

47/55



Downtown Survey District W.D. II 273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPO

Looking SW on Dam 4 Rd. from Downtown Pike at  
intersection w/ Spielman Rd.

48/55



Downsville Survey District 12-1 II-413

Washington Co, MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPS

Looking NE on Downsville Pike from Spielman Rd.

(R-#8601)

49/55



Downsville Survey District WA-II 273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MDSHPD

Looking N on Spielman Rd at #16523

L - historic stone wall and old Natural Well Rd.

50/55





Downsville Survey District V/A II - 273

Washington Co., MD

Photo Credit: PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc.: MHT

Looking SW on Downsville Pike: # 8613

51/55



Downsville Survey District    24 B 273  
Washington Co., MD  
PRH, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. : MDSHPO

Looking SW on Downsville Pike at #4630

52/55



Downsville Survey District W/A-II-273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg. Loc. MDSHPD

Looking NE on Downsville Pike (center: #8642)

53/55



8680 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA # 273

Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

Neg: MD SHFD

54/55

SW & SE corner







8680 Downsville Pike

Downsville Survey District WA-II 273

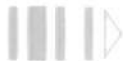
Washington Co., MD

PRA, Inc.

4/08

SE, 115 elev.

25/55



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-273  
District 20  
MAFI # 2208425504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Downsville, Maryland

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland Rtes., 632 and 63

CITY, TOWN

Downsville

☒ VICINITY OF

Williamsport-Fairplay

6

STATE

Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☒ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☒ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ OTHER  
☐ MILITARY

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Owners

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED  $\leq$  50%

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Downsville is a small crossroads community located at the intersection of Maryland Route 632, the Hagerstown-Downsville Pike and Maryland Route 63 which leads to Williamsport in Washington County.

The village is for the most part residential with wooden and brick houses set close to the road. Many of the wooden houses are of log construction sheathed with various forms of siding. Most of the buildings would appear to date from the second half of the 19th century.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-II-273

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Downsville is typical of many small crossroads communities which may be found in Western Maryland. Apparently towns like this one developed as a result of transportation needs and related commercial services associated with two roadways.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

June 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

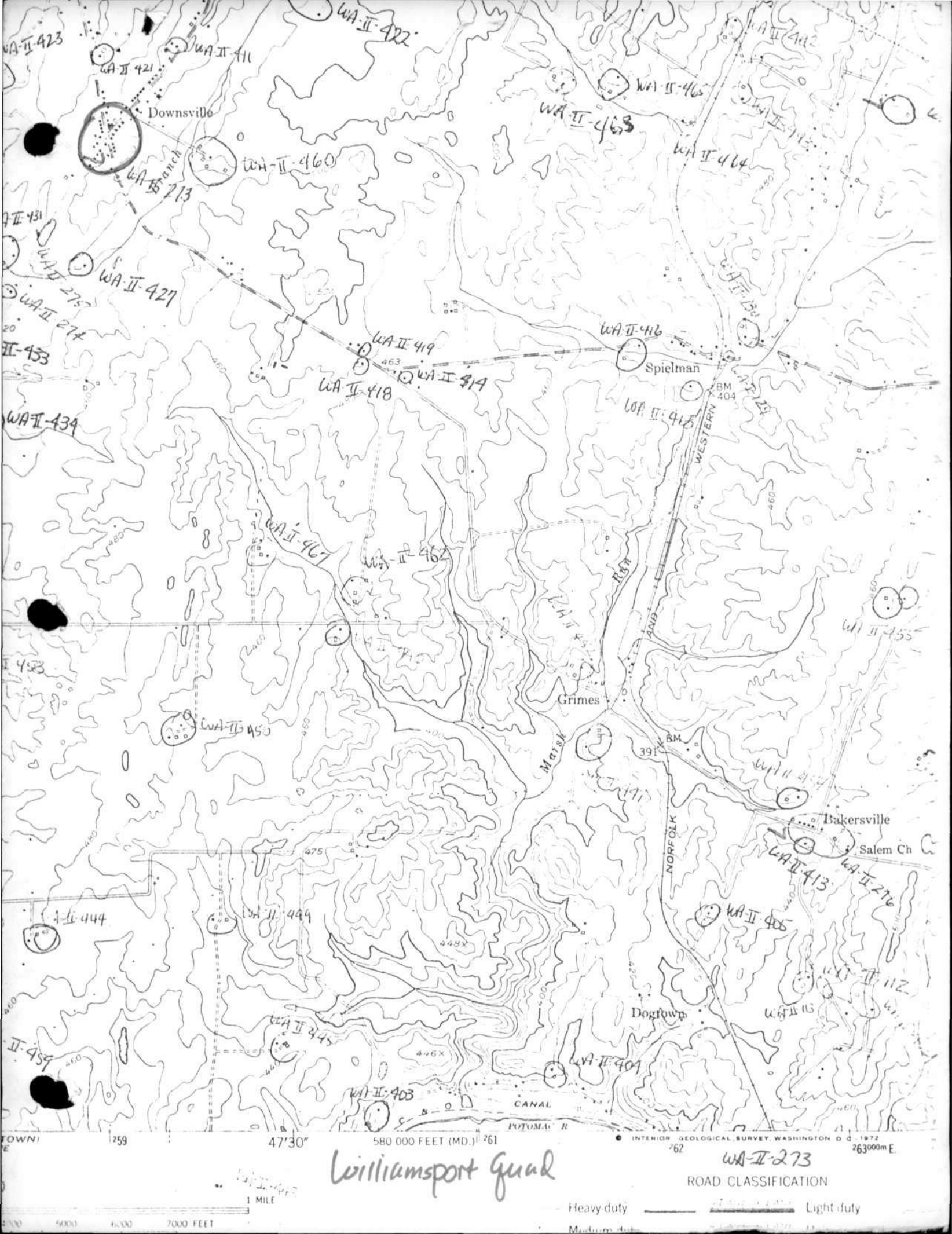
STATE

Maryland 21782

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438







WA-II-273

N.W. view

April, 1976

Downsville, Md.

Md. rts 632 and 63  
Williamsport Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Downsville, Md.

Md. Rts. 632 and 63  
Williamsport Vicinity

WA-11 2/13

N.E. View.

April 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-273

S.W. view

April, 1976

Downsville, Md.

Md. Rts. 632 and 63  
Williamsport Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Downsville, Md

Md. Rt. 632 and 63  
Williamsport Vicinity

WA-II-273

S. view

April, 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





WA-II-273

S.W. view.

Feb. 1976

Downsville, Md.

Md. Rts. 632 and 63  
Williamsport Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Downsville, Md.

Md. rts. 632 and 63  
Williamsport Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY